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*To My Sisters
Blanche, Zell and Grace*





Stanford

Laura Stanford Gorsuch
1961

THE NAME STANFORD

Stanford is an ancient surname, dating back to Saxon Chronicles in which it is found. It belongs to the class of nature names—Stan meaning stone, and ford, a river crossing.

Originally we may conjecture, one, Thomas, lived by a river where there was a shallow stony bottom, or where there was a series of stepping stones like those at Ambleside, in the English Lake District, over which passage was made. From this casual circumstance, he became known as Thomas at or by or from the stone ford: and then by degrees arose the name Thomas Stanford.

The name is Anglo Saxon rather than Norman, having settled in England chiefly in the fifth century. There were tribes, mainly Angles, Saxons and Jutes, that founded the Kingdoms which were finally combined into the English Monarchy and Nation.

Up to the Norman Conquest, when four Kings of the Norman House ruled, all the later rulers of England have been descended from the same line that established the English Monarchy, i.e. Anglo Saxon.

The name Stanford is found on ancient records in the various forms of—Staniford - Staniforth - Stanforth - Stamford - Stanniford - Staynford - Stanforde - Standford and Stanford of which the last is the most generally accepted form of today. The above various forms were undoubtedly developed because of the tribal dialects that existed through the formation period before the Saxon Kings ruled, beginning with Egbert, King of Wessex, who, in 827, united the various states into one Kingdom.

Thomas, John, William, Robert, Richard, Samuel, David and Charles are some of the Christian names most highly favored by the family for its male members.

A few of the many members of the family who have distinguished themselves in recent times, in various parts of the world are:

THE REV. JOHN STANFORD D.D. about 1835, in New York.

LELAND STANFORD, of New York, American Capitalist and philanthropist, 1824-1893.

JANE LATHROP STANFORD, of New York, American philanthropist.

SIR CHARLES VILLIERS STANFORD, of London, English Composer, 1852-1924.

BISHOP WESLEY M. STANFORD, Churchman, 1846-1924.

THE STANFORD GENEALOGY

Families of this name were to be found in the Counties of York, Stafford, Oxford, Huntington, Warwick, Leicester, Somerset and London, and were for the most part, the landed gentry of England.

The earliest records go back to the years 1273 - 1327 - 1379 - the early 1400rds - 1509 - 1558 - 1619 - 1622. It is not definitely known from which of the illustrious lines of the family in England the first emigrants of the name in America were descended, but all of the Stanfords are believed to have been of common ancestry at a remote period.

I have begun our line with the first Thomas of Leicestershire. I follow two descendants—Robert and Thomas.

Robert Stanford of Rowley, Staffordshire, who was the father of William Stanford of London, and grandfather of Sir William Stanford, Judge of London 1509-1558. It was to him that a visit was made by the crown. The canton was given by Henry the VIII—1491-1547.

Following the Leicester line I also begin with the first Thomas of Leicestershire, and finally come to Thomas Stanford, Esq. of Barkly, 1619. A visit by the crown to one of the line of the Leicester Stanfords, means that this also was a titled family.

STANFORDS IN AMERICA

The earliest record in America of the New England Stanfords, is of one, Thomas Stanford, living in Concord, Mass., in 1644. He is believed to have removed to Maine in 1652. At the same time, Robert Stanford was in Falmouth, Maine, in 1652.

Robert of Falmouth, Maine, was probably the father of the Robert Stanford, who was living in Marshfield, Connecticut, in 1680. He was married to the widow, Mary Williamson, by whom he had a son, Robert (about 1700). It is from this line I deduct, that our branch of the family descended.

Other branches of the family in England came to America and settled in Maryland and Virginia, but no record of their families or descendants have been found.

"The descendants of the various branches of the family in America have spread to practically every state of the Union, and have aided as much in the growth of the country as their ancestors aided in the founding of the nation. They have been noted for their courage, energy, ambition, industry, power of will, resourcefulness, initiative, piety and fortitude."

There is a break of about eighty years between the last named Robert (about 1700) and Robert Stanford of Clarion County, Penna. 1778 or 1790. It was at a

time when many New England settlers were moving westward through New York State and Pennsylvania.

Our direct line begins with Robert Stanford of Clarion County, Penna., about 1778 or 1790. This Robert was my father, Wesley M. Stanford's great-grandfather. From this Robert, the descent of our branch of the family is absolutely clear, link by link, without a break.

The registry of deeds in Suffolk County (City of Boston and its various subdivisions) now number 735 volumes, of which the first 20 contain all the deeds prior to A.D. 1700. All of these records were removed to Canada during the Revolutionary War, and two volumes—L-112 and L-114, for the years 1766 to 1768, were not returned.

Thomas Stanford, 1644, took part in King Philip's War, fighting for the Colonies under Captain Samuel Brocklebank, during 1675 and 1676; he was also a claimant of the grant to Captain Daniel Ring, by Narragansett Township No. 1, Maine, under the title of Captain Thomas Stanford. His services were given to help drive out the Indians. He resided in Charleston, Mass., from some time prior to 1680, until his death 28 July, 1695.

I feel certain that some of our American ancestors in the line of Stanford, fought in the Colonial and Revolutionary Wars.

HERALDRY

True heraldry, in the sense of a systematized science of hereditary armorial bearings, dates from the early twelfth century. There is no record of the use of such bearings during the first Crusade, and they were extremely rare during the second Crusade of 1147.

By 1189, a number of the shields borne in the third Crusade were emblazoned, and the great seal of Richard the Lion-Hearted, in the same year, shows his shield, charged with a lion rampant, erect on his hind legs, looking before him, the head shown in profile.

Three factors contributed to the origin of heraldry; first, man's natural desire to enhance his personal appearance, which found expression in the ornamentation of his military equipment; second, the need among warriors who covered their heads and bodies with armor, for identifying marks easily recognizable in the press of battle; and third, the need, in an age, when few could write and personal seals served instead of signatures.

Heraldry was the answer to the needs of the times. From the beginning of the 13th Century, princes, nobles, knights and gentry, adopted the custom. From this practice comes the expression "coat-of-arms."

In the early part of the 15th Century, a proclamation by Henry V, after his victory over the French in 1415, prohibited the assumption of "arms", except by virtue of inheritance, or a grant from the crown.

Since our earliest ancestors are traced to 1273, we are by virtue of inheritance, entitled to the use of one or more of the ancient coats-of-arms of the Stanford family whose ancestors fought in one or more of the Crusades, as well as the local tribal wars of early England.

Arms granted by a Sovereign, of a part of his royal arms, to be borne as a mark of honor, obtained in the earliest days of heraldry, hence the prevalence among armorial bearings, of the lion, the fleur-de-lis, and the eagle.

Paternal or hereditary arms were transmitted by the first possessor to his descendants.

"Because armorial bearings are hereditary, American descendants of British and Continental families have the unquestionable right to use the arms borne by their ancestors."

The coats-of-arms of one's forebears are as essential a part of one's genealogical record as the names of the ancestors who bore them.

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THE STANFORD COAT-OF-ARMS

"Several of the most ancient and frequently recurrent of the coats-of-arms of the Stanford family, which are however, found with slight variations in detail and coloring, are described as follows":—

STANFORD—(Packington and Perry, Barristers; Co. Stafford). Sir S. Degge describes this coat. Visit 1683.

Arms:—"Argent, three bars azure on a canton or, a fess, in chief three mascles sable."

This canton was given by Henry the VIII, 1491-1547. Visit—Sir William Stanford, Judge, 1509-1558.

STANFORD—(Barkly, Co. Leicester) Thomas Stanford, Esq. of Barkly. Visit—Leicester, 1619, son of John Stanford. Recorder of Leicester.

Arms:—"Three bars azure on a canton or, a fess, in chief three mascles sable, a mullet charged with a mullet."

STANFORD—A cross crosslet at middle base. The pommeé on face of helmet. Crest—a lion rampant.

The complete composition of a coat-of-arms includes the shield, the helmet, the crest, the wreath, the mantling and the motto.

The shield, on which is displayed the armorial device is the most important part of the composition.

The helmet, on which is displayed the wreath, derived, like the shield, from the defensive armor of the Knight, is placed above the shield.

The Crest, which in this case is the lion, was first used by Richard the Lion-Hearted.

The wreath of twisted silk, was worn on the Knight's helmet.

The mantling, originally two strips of silk attached to the wreath, has in heraldry, taken the form of a conventionalized scrollwork flowing down on both sides of the shield. It is generally believed that the mantling originated during the Crusades, as a protection for the helmet from sun and weather, and that the artists' scrollwork represents the shredding of the cloth by enemy swords.

In the first third of the shield there are three perforated diamonds, which in heraldry, are called mascles. They denote links of chain armor.

The three bars comprise the centre third part of the escutcheon. This centre is emblematic of the military girdle worn around the body over the armor.

The last third of the shield comprises the five-pointed star or spur or mullet. In the centre base is the cross crosslet, which stands for belief in Christianity.

The pommé cross, on face of helmet, depicts the knob or handle of sword and saddle.

METHOD AND DESIGN

In uncolored heraldic engravings, the values are indicated by points and hatched lines, an invention ascribed to SILVESTRO DI PETRASANCTA, an Italian herald of the 17th Century.

This method was used in developing and interpreting the ancient Stanford "Arms", after an intensive study of heraldry.

Designed and executed by;

Laura Stanford Gorsuch—in year 1960.

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Laura Stanford Gorsuch



